



## SEXUAL ASSAULT: HURTS ONE, IMPACTS ALL

Tasked with guarding the U.S. from enemies foreign and domestic, sexual assault is the last issue that should be on any service member's mind. However, it is a pressing issue within the military community that requires awareness and prevention. In 2010, 2,617 service members reported being a victim of sexual assault, according to the Department of Defense Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military. Approximately 90 percent of these cases involved alcohol in some way. Your fellow Marines

are the first defense against sexual assaults. Marines are encouraged to look after one another and act immediately if they feel a friend is being assaulted. Limiting alcohol consumption is also vital to keeping yourself aware and safe. Sexual assault and violence are preventable, but it will take military communities continuing to provide leadership awareness and victim counseling to overcome the issue.

**[Read about Marine Corps Bases Japan's efforts >>](#)**

**[Read about Camp Pendleton's efforts >>](#)**



## ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT



Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) is the organization responsible for the oversight of the Department of Defense (DoD) sexual assault policy. Their website, [www.sapr.mil](http://www.sapr.mil), provides guidance and other information for victims of sexual assault, unit commanders, first responders, and those who wish to prevent or respond to this crime. Sections address confidentiality, reporting procedures, and other elements of DoD's sexual assault policy, as well as training information, safety tips, resources, and links to related websites. Under "I Have Been Sexually Assaulted. What Should I Do?," the site describes reporting options, the roles of the Sexual Assault Response

Coordinator (SARC) and Victim Advocate (VA), and steps to take after an assault. For confidential victim assistance, you can click, call or text the website or numbers below.

**Call the Hotline at 877-995-5247 >>**

**Text zip code or installation/base name to 55247 CONUS/202-470-5546 OCONUS >>**

**For more information, visit the SARPO website >>**

## NEWS

### WOUNDED PLATOON COMMANDER REUNITES WITH MARINES WHO SAVED HIS LIFE



Six months after losing his right leg to a roadside bomb explosion in Afghanistan, 1st Lt. Cameron West finally got the chance to greet the men who helped save his life. On Wednesday, April 20, members of the 3rd Platoon of Kilo Company returned to Camp Pendleton from a nearly eight-month deployment. "It's great to see you," Lance Cpl. Tim Wagner told West, as he greeted his former platoon commander. West was just two weeks into his first combat

assignment when he and his platoon were attacked while on a hunt for Taliban insurgents in the Helmand province's deadly Sangin district. "I just want to see as many guys as I can. It's good stuff ... now it's time for them just to relax," commented West. During the deployment, twenty-five members of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment were killed and more than 150 wounded, including more than a dozen who lost one or more limbs.

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Above summary written by Mark Walker of North County Times.

## MARINE MAKES HISTORY WITH COMBAT PROMOTION

Sgt. Garrett Cheatum, a native of Niceville, Fla., was meritoriously promoted to the rank of staff sergeant and earned the first combat meritorious promotion in the history of the Marine Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) career field. The EOD mission is to neutralize and dispose of hazardous or explosive material that may pose a potential threat to the Marines operating throughout Afghanistan. To earn a combat meritorious promotion, a Marine must be able to perform at a level above his current rank and demonstrate outstanding leadership. He must also distinguish himself from his peers. Cheatum is an EOD technician with 1st EOD Company, supporting 3/9, and said he's simply been doing his job. "I've just been doing my job as best I can," Cheatum said humbly. "I'm not just sitting on my butt being lazy, but actually going out there and doing my best to support the Marines on the battlefield."



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## AFGHANISTAN: MOVING FUEL, HEAVY LIFTING



Motor Transport Marines moved more than 2,500 gallons of jet propulsion fuel to a new forward arming and refueling point at Combat Outpost Ouellette in Afghanistan's Helmand province, on April 16. The forward arming and refueling





point was recently constructed at the combat outpost to enable 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) to better support Marines and other coalition troops operating near Sangin, Afghanistan. In the picture to

your left, Lance Cpl. Jesiah D. Care, and his fellow Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 272 are lifting an empty fuel pod, April 18. "I convoy the fuel down here from Camp Leatherneck," said Care, a native of Reading, Pa. "Then I help empty the fuel for the aircraft that land here."

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**Read the RC-Southwest Weekly News Roundup >>**

## FOLLOWING DRONES, ROBOTIC TRUCKS INTRODUCED

The Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory is pushing forward with development of at least two unmanned ground vehicles, including a 7-ton truck that would cut down on the number of Marines outside the wire during resupply convoys. Upcoming experiments will determine the feasibility of taking Marines out of some Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement trucks, thus exposing fewer to improvised explosive devices and other



threats, said Capt. Warren Watts II, a logistics officer overseeing the project. Marines in one command-and-control vehicle would control up to two other trucks via laptop computer, with sensors, cameras and a computer in the unmanned vehicles providing direction at speeds of up to 45 mph. The first tests will take place at Fort Pickett, Va., from 16 - 20 May. One unmanned vehicle and a C2 vehicle will demonstrate how they work when guided by computer programming and a Marine equipped with an Xbox-style remote control. Additional testing is planned for September with members of 2nd Marine Logistics Group, out of Camp Lejeune, N.C. A culminating experiment is planned for 2012.

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**See Also: Marines to get new 'Ballistic Boxers' >>**

## FOR MARINES, EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY



The Marine Corps is renowned for protecting the nation's freedoms, but every day when Marines train to fight, they protect the environment as well. For Marines every day is Earth Day. The public trusts the Corps with more than 2.3 million acres to train its Marines, as a result, they train on an almost daily basis to conserve and protect the precious resources that reside within those boundaries. The Marine Corps theme for Earth Day this year was

"Preserving our resources, protecting our future," highlighting the Corps' mission of environmental excellence for a more efficient force. "Sound environmental practices minimize our logistical requirements, reduce operational costs and enhance force security, making the environment a key consideration in the sustainability of our mission as a force in readiness," said Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps. "Earth Day offers an opportunity for the Marine Corps to promote our proactive role in protecting our people, our bases and our planet."

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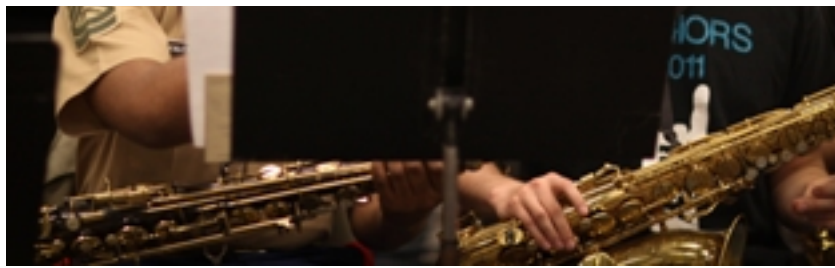
**See Also: Marine Corps Bases Japan Observes Earth Day >>**

**See Also: Marine Corps Logistics Base Celebrates Earth Day >>**

## MARINES' HYMN JAZZED UP



The Marine Corps' most talented jazz musicians staged performances and held music clinics across Michigan during their third annual All-Star Jazz Band tour from 10-15 April. The top 18 jazz musicians were selected from the Marine Corps'



12 field bands to wow the people of Michigan. After a few days of rehearsal, the Marines spent a week performing and holding jazz clinics at various colleges and high schools. "The recruiters in parts of the upper

Midwest have limited access to high schools," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jim Ford, head of the Marine Corps Music Program at Headquarters Marine Corps. "Two of the schools we visited, Marquette High School and Interlochen Arts Academy, had restricted access. The Marine Corps' outreach to those schools greatly improved through our visits." Ford spoke with Marine music technical assistants stationed in the various Marine Corps Districts to decide where they would tour this year in order to increase the Corps' recruiting visibility. Click on the link below to hear the jazz rendition of the Marines' Hymn written by the Marine Corps All-Star Jazz Band's lead trombonist, Staff Sgt. Ken Ebo.

[Click here to watch the Jazz Band Perform >>](#)

[See Also: Camp Foster Theater Awash in 'Coats of Red and Blue' >>](#)

[See Also: Marines Cover Britney Spears in Afghanistan >>](#)

## HERO OF THE WEEK

### MEET THE REAL LIFE 'FIRE AND FORGET' WEAPON



In military jargon, 'fire and forget' refers to a weapon that doesn't require further guidance to reach the intended target after launch. Capt. Christopher L. Buck, commanding officer for E Company, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, reserves this title for Lance Cpl. Zach R. Mullin. Buck describes Mullin, a team leader in 1st Platoon, E Company, as a Marine who understands the commander's intent. "You tell him what to do and he's gone," said Buck. "He's one of those guys you

hope stay in [the Corps]." Even at this early stage in his Marine Corps' career, Mullin has earned the trust of the Marines around him. "His maturity and his leadership are well above his present rank," said Buck. "He is one of the best team leaders in the company." Mullin has helped develop pattern analysis for E Company's area of operation during their



deployment. He was also effective in gathering intelligence because of his ability to successfully communicate with Afghans, sometimes without the help of an interpreter. Despite his success, Mullin gives credit to the hardworking Marines who surround him.

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## CELEBRATING AN AMERICAN HERO

On Friday, April 8, Lt. Col. Alex Lee (Ret.) was recognized for his lifetime of service during a ceremony at which he was presented a letter of recognition from the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos. During his 27 years of service in the Marine Corps, Lee became a decorated Vietnam combat veteran, serving two tours over the latter half of the 1960s. The first was with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines from 1965-1966. As a company commander, Lee earned the Silver Star for heroism. Asked by



Gen. Herman Nickerson to return to Vietnam, Lee commanded the 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company from 1969-1970. Again, he distinguished himself as a heroic leader and received many personal decorations. The event was held at The Laurels of Summit Ridge, in Asheville, N.C., a facility that offers both assisted and independent living where Lee resides. Marines, friends and fellow veterans came from all over the country to partake in the recognition, featuring representation by three Carolina-based detachments of the Marine Corps League; the Wounded Warrior Regiment; and a Color Guard provided by Ammunition Company, 4th Supply Battalion, 4th MLG.

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## MARINES EXPAND RULES FOR PURPLE HEART

The Marine Corps expanded its rules for the Purple Heart, now allowing the medal to be awarded to more Marines who suffer mild traumatic brain injuries in combat. The revisions, approved by Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, take into account new scientific findings



about brain injuries. Moving forward, any Marine who suffers a concussion from enemy action such as a roadside bomb explosion and who is kept out of combat longer than 48 hours by a physician because of neurological deficits has earned a Purple Heart. Before the changes, Marines could earn the Purple Heart for a concussion only if there is a loss of consciousness.

[Read Official Marine Administrative Message >>](#)

Above summary written by Gregg Zoroya of USA Today.



## EVENTS

### FALLEN VIETNAM VETERANS HONORED IN QUINCY

The Vietnam Combat Veterans Combined Armed Forces Quincy Chapter will hold their annual Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony on 28 April in Quincy, Mass. [1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment](#) will provide a Color Guard for the ceremony, which is held in honor of the 48 men of Quincy who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, will serve as the guest speaker. Each year, the ceremony is dedicated to a select few of those 48. This year's ceremony will be dedicated to Warrant Officer Ralph Willard, PFC Richard J. Vasconcellos, and Specialist George F. Fell, Jr.



[For more information, visit the Quincy Chapter website >>](#)

### MCAS BEAUFORT MARINE GETS 'EXTREME MAKEOVER'



ABCs "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" crew will be heading to Beaufort, South Carolina to build a home for Staff Sgt. William Dickinson from MCAS Beaufort. While repairing the family home, Staff Sgt. Dickinson uncovered mold within his walls, making the entire family sick. Through his diligence, he was able to complete several projects, but was unable to complete all the repairs before deployment overseas. The Dickinson Family episode airs Sunday, 1 May, the same weekend as the MCAS Beaufort Air Show. For show times check local listings.

[Click here to read more about the Dickinson Family's story >>](#)

[Watch a fellow Marine's home built in elapsed-time >>](#)

[Click here for more information on the MCAS Beaufort Air Show >>](#)



## MARINE SOUTH MILITARY EXPO

The annual Marine South Military Expo will be held at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C., on 27-28 April. Held since 1993, this annual event is a military exposition providing men and women who frequently deploy to the leading edges of today's military operations with a first-hand look at the latest products from the world's leading defense equipment manufacturers. Marine South commands from Camp Lejeune, MCAS Cherry Point and MCAS New River are among the attendees.



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### DID YOU KNOW?



The Texas A&M University System has entered into an educational partnership with the United States Marine Corps that will provide guaranteed college admission to pre-screened Marines that qualify once they leave active duty. The Marine Corps Leadership Scholar Program is now open at all 11 universities that make up the A&M System, including Texas A&M University-San Antonio and Texas A&M University in College Station.

[Click here to learn more about the partnership >>](#)  
[Learn more about the Texas A&M University System >>](#)